

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

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FOR COHEN FROM AF/C

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGUI KINSHASA FROM
NDJAMENA NOV 27 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2036

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CD

SUBJECT: SECOND GROUP OF AMERICAN MISSIONARIES EXPELLED FROM CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 1983

1. SUMMARY: TWELVE ADULT BAPTIST MID-MISSION MISSIONARIES
AND FOUR DEPENDENT CHILDREN LIVING IN SARH AND KOUMRA AREAS WERE
EXPELLE

FROM CHAD NOV 26. THIS EXPULSION PLUS EARLIER EXPULSION
OF SEVEN PEOPLE NOV 19 AS REPORTED REFTEL HAS IN EFFECT TERMINATED
PRESENCE OF BAPTIST MID-MISSION IN CHAD WITH EXCEPTION FOR MOMENT
OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL UNDER DIRECTION OF DR. DAVID SEYMOUR AT
MISSION OPERATED HOSPITAL IN KOUMRA. EMBASSY REQUESTS ADVICE
ON APPROPRIATE PROTEST.

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2. ORDER EXPELLING SIXTEEN WAS DELIVERED ORALLY NOV 23 AND

DIRECTED ALL BAPTIST MID-MISSION MISSIONARIES TO LEAVE CHAD WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS EXCEPT MEDICAL PERSONNEL, WHICH INCLUDE DR. AND MRS. SEYMOUR AND TWO MISSION NURSES, MISS KAY LAMB AND MISS RUTH BARTOW. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, TWO OR THREE OTHER REMAINING PEOPLE ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE IN COMING DAYS.

3. AS WITH EARLIER GROUP EMBASSY LEARNED OF EXPULSION ORDER THROUGH LOCAL MISSIONARY SOURCE AND WAS NOT FORMALLY NOTIFIED BY GOVERNMENT. WHEN CONTACTED, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL POLICE ADMITTED EXPULSION, BUT DENIED CONSULAR ACCESS TO GROUP. EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS ABLE TO TALK WITH GROUP AT N'DJAMENA AIRPORT BETWEEN THEIR ARRIVAL BY PLANE FROM SARH AND THEIR DEPARTURE FROM CHAD ONE HOUR LATER. GROUP WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS. ONE COUPLE HOPING GO TO LIBERIA, SEVERAL OTHERS TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, AND REST RETURNING U.S. PENDING REASSIGNMENT.

4. ACCORDING TO MISSIONARIES FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND CHADIAN BAPTISTS ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY EXPULSION ORDERS WHICH INCLUDE REQUIRED TERMINATION OF CHURCH SERVICES AND MEETINGS. AS MANY AS DOZEN SENIOR CHADIAN PASTORS HAVE BEEN HELD IN SARH AREA, REPORTEDLY IN LOCAL RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE, WHO IS PERSONALLY DIRECTING GOVERNMENT MISSIONARY POLICY. INCREASING PRESSURE INDICATED AT RECENT MEETING OF KOUMRA TOWNSPEOPLE WHERE SOUS-PREFET STATED THAT ONLY MISSIONARIES WHO HAD VISITED MECCA, THAT IS MUSLIMS, WERE WELCOME AND THAT ANY GATHERING OF THREE OR MORE BAPTISTS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO HIM.

5. GERALD PAULY, MEMBER OF SECOND EXPELLED GROUP, VISITED EMBASSY ON NOV 21 AND PROVIDED MORE DETAILS ON FIRST GROUP'S EXPULSION. HE SAID TWO DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN INVOLVED. ONE CHARGED MR. WIMER WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTS AGAINST TRIBAL INITIATION CEREMONIES. ACCORDING TO PAULY, ABOUT YEAR AGO IN MAITAMA NEAR SARH, WIMER REMOVED FETTER PLACED IN FIELD OF RECENT CONVERT WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN IN LINE TO BECOME LOCAL WITCH DOCTOR. SECOND DOCUMENT ORDERED HIRSCHYS, VAUGHNS, AND WIMERS TO CEASE THEIR OPERATIONS AND LEAVE COUNTRY IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.

6. GROUP EXPELLED NOV 26 INCLUDED MISS MARY BARKER, MISS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VIOLA BROWN, MISS WILMA CHILDS, MISS DORIS GILBERT, MR. ALLAN AND MRS. RUTH FISHER, MISS NANCY KNOPF, MR. GERALD AND MRS. MARGUERITE PAULY AND THEIR SON KEVIN, P. R. ROGER AND MRS. JEAN REISACHER AND THEIR CHILDREN DANNY, MARK, AND PHILIP, AND MISS ADA TEMPLE.

7. GIVEN TOMBALBAYE'S DEEP COMMITMENT TO CHADIAN AUTHENTICITY CAMPAIGN, GOC APPEARS WILLING TO EVENTUALLY FORCE DEPARTURE

OF ENORMOUSLY POPULAR AND RESPECTED DR. SEYMOUR AND
TERMINATE HIS MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES AND TRAINING
PROGRAM. TO DATE NEITHER OTHER PROTESTANT GROUPS NOR
CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN THREATENED, ALTHOUGH
ONE FRENCH CATHOLIC PRIEST WAS EXPELLED LAST WEEK.

8. COMMENT: WE ARE DISTRESSED AND ALARMED TO WITNESS WHAT
APPEARS TO BE END OF TWO GENERATIONS OF FINE WORK IN CHAD BY
BAPTIST MID-MISSION ALTHOUGH PUZZLED BY DECISION OF BAPTISTS
TO ENGAGE IN LOSING GAME OF CONFRONTATION WITH ALL-POWERFUL
(AND NOMINAL BAPTIST) PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE ON INITIATION ISSUE
WHICH MOST OTHER MISSIONARY GROUPS IN AFRICA HAVE COME TO
TERMS WITH. I HAVE THUS FAR GONE ON ASSUMPTION THAT US POLICY
DOES NOT DENY THE GOC RIGHT TO EXPEL ANH FOREIGNER IT CHOOSES,
RIGHT USG RESERVES TO ITSELF; HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO REGISTER
AMERICAN
ISTASTE FOR SUCH SUMMARY EXPULSIONS AND TO PROTEST
TO FONMIN GOC FAILURE TO FACILITATE CONSULAR ACCESS BY EMBASSY
TO AMCITS IN LEGAL AND MORAL DIFFICULTIES, PARTICULARLY SINCE
WE HAVE BEEN TOLD SUCH ACCESS WAS DENIED ON SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS
FROM TOMBALBAYE.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: CAN DEPT CONFIRM WHETHER CHAD IS
SIGNATORY OF VIENNA CONSULAR CONVENTION AND, SINCE U.S. HAS
NOT RATIFIED CONVENTION, INDICATE WHETHER WE MAY BASE PROTEST
ON CONVENTION?
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